

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 01720 151600Z

71

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10

RSC-01 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02

H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15

PRS-01 SPC-03 FEA-02 OMB-01 DRC-01 /239 W

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R 151504Z MAR 74

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4658

UNCLAS GENEVA 1720

PASS STR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT

SUBJECT: PROPOSED EXPANSION GATT COMPUTER FACILITY

1. TUMLIR OF GATT SECRETARIAT CALLED INFORMAL MEETING ON MARCH 13 OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM COUNTRIES WHO MEMBERS OF GATT TARIFF STUDY. SECRETARIAT STATED THAT GATT COMPUTER SYSTEM CAN HANDLE PRESENT AND SCHEDULED WORKLOAD EXCLUDING TEXTILE AGREEMENT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS BUT ANY INCREASED FUTURE DEMANDS WOULD EXCEED SYSTEM CAPACITY. SECRETARIAT THEN POSED FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

A. IN VIEW OF MTN, WHAT WILL BE FUTURE DEMANDS OF DELEGATIONS ON GATT COMPUTER FACILITY?

B. ARE COUNTRIES INTERESTED IN PLAN TO USE COMPUTER TO MONITOR PROGRESS OF NEGOTIATIONS?

C. WOULD COUNTRIES BE INTERESTED IN EXPANDING GATT COMPUTER OPERATIONS TO INCLUDE CENTRALIZED DATA BANK OR POSSIBLY EVEN TIME-SHARING CAPABILITIES?

2. MEETING CAUGHT MANY UNAWARE. RESPONSES WERE UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 01720 151600Z

CAUTIOUS. CONSENSUS WAS TO STUDY QUESTIONS RAISED

AND RESPOND AT ANOTHER MEETING WHEN GROUP 3(A) RE-
CONVENES ON MAY 14. HOWEVER, FOLLOWING POINTS WORTH
NOTING WERE MADE:

A. SECRETARIAT - ANY EXPANDED SYSTEM WOULD TAKE
SIX MONTHS TO ONE YEAR TO BECOME OPERATIVE;

B. JAPAN - PROBLEMS OF SAFEGUARDING DATA WOULD
ARISE. ALSO IF PROGRESS OF NEGOTIATIONS IS TO BE
MONITORED AND REPORTED, HOW WOULD RESULTS OF ANY BI-
LATERAL NEGOTIATIONS BE RECORDED?

C. US MADE A NONCOMMITTAL RESPONSE INCLUDING
COMMENT THAT SECRETARIAT REALLY ASKING DELEGATES TO
CONSIDER TWO LEVELS OF EXPANDED OPERATIONS. FIRST LEVEL
WOULD BE TO ALLOW DELEGATIONS ACCESS TO CENTRALIZED
DATA FILES. OTHER LEVEL WOULD BE FOR SECRETARIAT
TO PROVIDE PROCESSING CAPABILITIES WHICH COULD INCLUDE
AN INTERACTIVE SYSTEM WITH OR WITHOUT SECRETARIAT PROGRAMMING
ASSISTANCE TO DELEGATIONS. ALSO, SECURITY CONSIDERATION
RELATES TO TWO DIFFERENT PROBLEMS WITH FIRST BEING TO
ENSURE SECURITY OF DATA FILES AND SECOND TO ENSURE
SECURITY OF RESULTS OF ANY PROCESSING DONE BY A
DELEGATION.

3. SECRETARIAT WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE RESPONSES IN TIME
TO INCORPORATE INTO 1975 BUDGET ESTIMATES, BUT SAID
THAT ANSWERS BY MAY 14 ARE ACCEPTABLE. SECRETARIAT
AGREED TO FOLLOW UP MEETING WITH MORE DETAILED PROPOSAL
INCLUDING A RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS RAISED BY DELEGATES
AT MEETING.DALE

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